

OCT 9 8 1926

NOVEMBER, 1926

• THE • AMERICAN •  
**SCANDINAVIAN**  
**REVIEW**



The Mirror

*Aage Remfeldt*

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

*"My own life is the most wonderful Fairy Tale of all"*

## HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

*By HIMSELF*

This is the story of the shoe-maker's son of Odense who became the companion of kings and the most beloved of writers. Like all his other fairy tales, Hans Christian's autobiography is touched with romantic fancy and tuned to the ears of children. Who can resist the temptation to be an eavesdropper when Andersen tells a story, especially if it be the fairy tale of his Life!

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## NORSE MYTHOLOGY

Legends of Gods and Heroes

Since 1840, Peter Andreas Munch's handbook of *Norse Mythology* has been a standard work in Norway. Later scholarship has modified but has not replaced it, and to-day Munch's book still retains popular and scholarly prestige. It is a tribute to the enduring quality of Munch's work that the great authority of our day, Professor Magnus Olsen, chose to bring up to date the older historian's text rather than attempt a new study of the Norse "Age of Fable." The result is this

volume, *Norse Mythology: Legends of Gods and Heroes*, translated by Dr. S. B. Hustvedt, which the American publishers offer as the authoritative guide to the world of Northern myth and legend. It is intended to serve alike the student of Old Norse literature, the reader of other literatures in which the ancient themes occur, and especially the general reader who has searched often and in vain for one handy volume to tell him of the old Norse gods and their affairs. Price, \$2.50



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## FINANCIAL NOTES

### FINLAND GETS \$15,000,000 LOAN IN U. S. A.

A New York banking syndicate, including the National City Company and Brown Brothers & Company, has extended a \$15,000,000 loan to the Republic of Finland. The loan is to be used principally for productive purposes, including hydro-electric development, agricultural credits, railroad construction, and refunding. The 6½ per cent external loan sinking fund gold bonds are due September 1, 1956, and are offered at 94 and interest, to yield 6.98 per cent. Of the issue, \$3,000,000 have been taken by the Bank of Finland for offering in that country.

### NORGES BANK REDUCES DISCOUNT RATE

Reducing its discount rate one-half per cent to 5 per cent Norges Bank finds that the money situation has become somewhat easier, due in part to increased deposits in the private banks and the improved liquidation outlook for banks brought under such supervision.

### IRVING BANK-COLUMBIA TRUST COMPANY

With the acquisition of the National Butchers and Drovers Bank the Irving Bank-Columbia Trust Company has changed its name to the Irving Bank & Trust Company. As a result of the stockholders' action the capital of \$17,500,000 will be increased to \$22,000,000 and surplus and undivided profits from \$14,500,000 to approximately \$19,000,000.

### DANISH CREDIT AND MORTGAGE ASSOCIATIONS

Loans of the Danish Credit and Mortgage Associations now amount to between 3,500 and 3,600 million kroner, an increase of 1,500 million kroner during the past five years. These associations have been instrumental in considerable local development wherever such loans were extended, and especially since the close of the World War have they furnished needed capital in particular localities.

### BILLION DOLLAR DAY FOR U. S. TREASURY

Recently there took place the transfer of more than a billion dollars in connection with financial operations of the United States Treasury. The transactions included the sale of \$350,000,000 or more of new nine-month certificates, the retirement at maturity of more than \$400,000,000 of notes, the disbursement of approximately \$85,000,000 of interest on Liberty bonds and other Government obligations, and the collection of quarterly income tax payments amounting to \$300,000,000.

### NOTODDEN WORKS ARE TAXED AT 26,000,000 KRONER

The great industrial works at Notodden have been taxed by the Norwegian Government at 26,000,000 kroner, and this amount is exclusive of

the taxation of Svelgfoss which lies outside the town boundaries. The Notodden Works are showing constant development, as is evident from the tax value.

### NORWEGIAN TELEGRAPH SERVICE'S INCREASED REVENUE

A surplus of 6,200,000 kroner is reported for the Norwegian Government Telegraph service for 1925, an increase of about 250,000 kroner above what the budget called for. Revenues amounted to 33,000,000 kroner, and the expenditures of 26,800,000 kroner were almost 1,000,000 kroner less than expected.

### NEW DIRECTOR FOR PRIVATBANKEN OF COPENHAGEN

V. Eigtved has been elected director of Privatbanken of Copenhagen to take the place of Director With. Mr. Eigtved represents the solid Danish merchant class, and has the confidence of the community. In close association with C. C. Clausen, the chairman of the board, the new director is expected to maintain the tradition of Privatbanken as one of the leading money institutions of the Danish capital.

## SHIPPING NOTES

### F. W. HVOSLEF WAS FACTOR IN U. S. SHIPPING CIRCLES

The passing of F. W. Hvoslef, the senior member of the well known ship brokerage firm of Bennett, Hvoslef & Co., of New York, caused great regret among the many business associates and friends of the deceased, who for many years was a factor in American shipping affairs. Mr. Hvoslef was spending his vacation at his summer home Hop near Bergen, when death overtook him. The son of the late Bishop Hvoslef, he came to the United States many years ago and early became active in shipping affairs. He was decorated with the Order of St. Olav for his interest in all that went to further Norwegian affairs in the New World. Mr. Hvoslef was 65 years old when he died.

### RETURN OF DANISH FIVE-MASTER "KÖBENHAVN" TO COPENHAGEN

What is said to be the world's greatest sailing vessel, the five-masted bark *Köbenhavn* of the East Asiatic Company's line, returned to the Danish capital after completing a most interesting and instructive voyage. Wherever the ship appeared it attracted attention and, used largely as a training ship for young sailors, it carried out its mission besides proving that the era of sailing vessels is not as yet fully over.

### REYKJAVIK HARBOR UNDERGOING IMPROVEMENTS

When the harbor of Reykjavik is improved according to present plans, Iceland will be in a much better position to take care of its increased import and export business.

1864

1926

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FREDRIK BÖÖK, one of the most distinguished of Swedish literary critics, is professor of literature at Lund. He has edited the new edition of Tegnér's works which has just appeared under the imprint of Norstedt och Söner and is an authority on the subject of the great poet's life and work. Böök has been especially identified with the writers known in Sweden as "the poets of the nineties" who founded a new romantic school under the leadership of Heidenstam and Levertin. His last contribution to literary criticism, however, deals with the writers of the eighties. While this is Böök's first contribution to the REVIEW, it is not his first appearance among the authors of the Foundation, for he wrote an illuminating introduction to Charles Wharton Stork's translation of Heidenstam's *The Charles Men* which appeared as one of the SCANDINAVIAN CLASSICS.

Tegnér's "Farewell to My Lyre" in the English version is taken from the *Anthology of Swedish Lyrics* published in the CLASSICS of the Foundation.

SOPHIE BREUM is a native of Odense and was the editor of the Hans Christian Andersen centenary book published in 1905 by the city. She has also written numerous novels and short stories. As a complement to her charming description of Andersen's town, we quote a paragraph from his own account in *The True Story of My Life* which is now in press as one of the 1926 CLASSICS of the Foundation:

"Every circumstance around me tended to excite my imagination. Odense itself, in those days in which there was not a single steamboat in existence, and when intercourse with other places was much more rare than now, was a totally different city to what it is in our day; a person might have fancied himself living hundreds of years ago, because so many

customs prevailed then which belonged to an earlier age. The guilds walked in procession through the town with their harlequin before them with mace and bells; on Shrove Tuesday the butchers led the fattest ox through the streets adorned with garlands, whilst a boy in a white shirt and with great wings on his shoulders rode upon it; the sailors paraded through the city with music and all their flags flying, and then two of the boldest among them stood and wrestled upon a bank placed between two boats, and the one who was not thrown into the water was the victor."

Those who are familiar with Ellen Key's writings will readily trace in the account of her early home those ideals of family life which constituted so large a part of her message. She herself attributed all the best that she had to give the world to the heritage from her parents. Her sister Fru HEDDA KEY-RASMUSSEN merely presents the picture of their early home without attempting to analyze its influence. The sketch in its present form was written for the REVIEW before Ellen Key's death.

The survey of recent Norwegian books by the Editor of the REVIEW is a regular feature. Surveys of Swedish and Danish literature, by Yngve Hedvall and Julius Clausen respectively, will appear early in 1927. The American Book Table, which has been a feature of our November number for several years, has been expanded this year with annotations in order to make it more valuable especially to our readers abroad.

Professor Böök's essay on Tegnér introduces a group of biographical-critical articles on great Scandinavian authors. Other articles in course of preparation are by different writers and deal with Bellman, Steen Steensen Blicher, and Oehlenschläger.



*Copyright by Goodwin, Stockholm*

STOCKHOLM HARBOR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY, TO THE LEFT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND THE NAVAL BUILDINGS  
Photograph by Henry Buergel Goodwin

# THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW

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## Esaias Tegnér

By FREDRIK BÖÖK

FOR a hundred years—a century having now passed since the appearance of *Frithiof's Saga*—it has been a practically unanimous opinion among the people in Sweden that Tegnér is the greatest of Swedish poets, the one who has given the clearest and profoundest expression to our national spirit. It is true, there have been times when his star has been veiled in light mists—notably in the naturalistic period—but these eclipses have been partial only and of short duration, and when they have passed, it has seemed as though the light shone with greater effulgence. The present generation feels a warmer and a more broadly comprehending admiration for Tegnér than any generation that went before.

The small nations—and in our day Sweden must be reckoned among the small—have usually great men of lesser dimensions than those that constitute the pride of the greater nations. For large affairs create big tasks; a spacious stage calls for great talent in the actor; the purely quantitative plays over into the qualitative, as even the philosopher Hegel taught. Swedish generals, Swedish statesmen, Swedish men of finance seldom have an opportunity to develop on a large scale, to wrestle with gigantic problems, or to make a contribution to the advancement of the world as a whole. In the purely intellectual realm, however, the situation is somewhat different. A Swedish scientist may solve problems that touch the life of all humanity; a Swedish poet may reveal a genius as great as any citizen of a larger country. Linné from Uppsala wrote the laws that govern botany. Berzelius and Scheele can bear comparison with the foremost chemists of their day. And of Tegnér we Swedes are not afraid to say that he would have been a *princeps* and a *heros* of letters no matter what nation he had happened to be born into.

Actually, he has attained a place in world literature. He has been

translated into all the European languages, and only recently new English and French versions of *Frithiof's Saga* have appeared—in Germany he has long been counted among the classics. Both Goethe and Sainte-Beuve expressed their admiration for and their interest in him. In spite of all this fame, he can never to foreigners be what he is to Sweden. Only the reader who is able to enjoy Swedish verse can receive a true impression of his genius. No translation can convey the brilliance, the power, and the energy of his poetry, the fascinating interplay of wit and exalted imagination. One must belong to the seven million who own Sweden as their mother tongue in order to hold the key to his innermost secrets. Mr. Edmund Gosse, the excellent English critic who has made a life study of Scandinavian literature, recently wrote of Tegnér with sympathy and admiration, but truth compels the statement that it was only a visit in the ante-chambers.

How then is it possible to convey to foreign readers some comprehension of Esaias Tegnér? When one can not write a whole book or even a thesis, but is confined to a scant few pages, perhaps it were best to use comparisons, to explain the unknown through the known.

First and foremost, we may compare Tegnér to Voltaire. He grew up in the palmy days of Gustavian culture, and his mind was first formed by French models. With admirable ease he, the poor country minister's son, acquired the sprightliness, elegance, and lucidity, the smooth, playfully gracious tone—everything that was characteristic of aristocratic eighteenth century culture. His manners and appearance had a brilliance and distinction that charmed and fascinated all who saw him. He could, when he chose, be a perfect courtier, in spite of the jacobinical opinions he held in his younger days, and in



ESAIAS TEGNÉR, 1829

spite of the pride and freedom with which he asserted his personal independence. The slightly younger poet, Bernhard von Beskow, said of Tegnér that he was the only one among the younger generation who possessed the tone, at once polished and natural, which gave attraction to Gustaf III, the Royal Charmer, and his court. This side of Tegnér's nature appears to best advantage in his letters. They act upon the reader like champagne. They stimulate, prod, intoxicate. They are full of the most astonishing transitions of thought. The writer's fancy plays, his irony scintillates—it is festive and coruscating as fireworks. He is as intellectual as Voltaire, and as bold and racy, but he has far more depth, and as a man he is infinitely more lovable. He is sincere, warm-hearted, unselfish, and, although fully conscious of his own powers, modest.

Secondly, we may compare Tegnér with Schiller. When still a child he had admired Voltaire; as a youth in the University he learned to know the German idealistic philosophy and became a pupil of Schiller. No one has given a more masterly expression to philosophic reflection than Tegnér, or lent a finer lyrical-rhetorical form to the most sublime ideal aspiration. He was a deeply religious nature. It is true, he was not orthodox, and there were many who were surprised when, in 1824, he exchanged his professor's chair in Greek at Lund for the bishop's see at Växjö. His conception of Christianity was about the same as that of Goethe, Schiller, and Fichte. He saw in the Christian religion a means of spiritual culture which presented in more popular form the truths recognized also by philosophic idealism and classic humanism. Tegnér could have said with Goethe:

*“Wer Wissenschaft und Kunst besitzt  
hat auch Religion.*

*Wer jene beiden nicht besitzt  
der habe Religion.”*

His own confession of faith was derived, not only from the Bible, but also from the writings of Kant and Plato. Emerson's theory of life did not differ much from his. His thoughts on these subjects he expressed in the wonderful poems which lent beauty and elevation to the academic festivals at Lund. Later in life he presented them in prose, in his sermons, and the speeches at schools which he gave in his capacity of bishop. The spirit of humanism has never in the Swedish language been voiced with greater lucidity, purity, and vigor. His patriotic poems, among which *Svea* is the best known, are filled with a patriotic fervor that is really religious in its essence.

Thirdly, we may compare Tegnér with Lord Byron. About the time when he was at the height of his own career Tegnér read with deep interest and warm sympathy the works of his English brother poet. They had much in common. Tegnér, too, had been an impassioned admirer of Napoleon and a bitter foe of the Holy Alliance.



THE SMALL HOUSE WAS TEGNÉR'S HOME AT LUND

frequently. Personal sorrows darkened his life. He was several times in love, but the experience brought him suffering and disappointment. His high official position made these erotic adventures all the more disastrous to his peace of mind. Both in verse and prose he has given pathetic expression to his weariness, his melancholy, his passion. In his letters the wit and playfulness are still present, but mingled with them we catch glimpses of a soul-sickness and an all-pervading pessimism that remind us of Swift. Finally, at the Riksdag meeting in 1840, where Tegnér took part in a sharp attack on the growing radical element, he showed plain signs of a deranged mind. He was taken to a hospital in Slesvig, but soon recovered sufficiently so that in the following year he could return to Växjö and take up his duties as bishop again, though his strength had failed greatly.

It will be seen from the foregoing that many contradictory elements

His general liberalism persisted for a long time, and it was only toward the end of his life that his experiences with the party of the opposition in the Riksdag and the squabbles of an immature liberal press changed him into a strict Conservative in politics. This development was accelerated by his natural inclination to obstinacy and contradiction. He usually went directly counter to the prevailing opinion, in which he was not unlike Byron. Tegnér was a passionate, untamed nature. Underneath the smiling surface, the seeming transparent harmony, were hidden abysses of grief, bitterness, and contempt for humanity. In his great poetic masterpiece, *Frithiof's Saga*, his own rebelliousness, his vein of Titanic individualism, came out in the hero. Frithiof, the moody viking, *varg i veum*, is akin to Childe Harold, Don Juan, and Byron's other heroes. Toward the end of Tegnér's life these bitter and despondent moods appeared more and more frequently.

were united in Tegnér: the lucid, flexible rationalism of the eighteenth century; the exalted philosophic idealism of the nineteenth; the impassioned individualism of the romantic era—Voltaire, Schiller, Lord Byron. He was at once critical and enthusiastic, irreverent and pious, a traditionalist and a freebooter. But it was the interplay of opposing forces in him that kept his mind fresh and elastic. When we try to enter more deeply into his work and personality we feel no lack of unity. All the varying tendencies in him are fused in a personality so vital and natural, so full of exuberant strength, so irradiated by genius that all criticism is silenced. His chivalrous and generous spirit cast a glamor over his bursts of temperament and passion. He reminds us of another son of Värmland, Gösta Berling, and there can be no doubt that when Selma Lagerlöf drew her hero she consciously or unconsciously used Tegnér as a model. The typical Värmland traits in Tegnér are the same traits that we recognize as typical of the whole Swedish nation.

When in 1839 Tegnér wrote a short autobiography, he tried to find an explanation of the unparalleled popularity which he enjoyed among the whole Swedish public. He wrote: "The Swede like the Frenchman loves in poetry that which is bright, clear, transparent. He is also willing to accept the profound—indeed he values it; but it must be a transparent depth; he wants to see the golden sand beneath the wave. 'What is vaguely said is vaguely



TEGNÉR'S STATUE AT LUND UNIVERSITY



THE TEGNÉR MUSEUM IN LUND WITH FURNITURE WHICH WAS USED BY THE POET

thought,' is his theory. In this respect he differs from the German whose contemplative nature not only tolerates but even prefers the mystic and nebulous, in which he loves to imagine profundities hidden.—When it comes to the poet's spirit and theory of life, we especially like what is vital, fresh, impetuous, bold, nay audacious.

"This may be applied also to the Swedish national character. No matter how flabby, frivolous, and degenerate the people may be, there is always a viking vein at the bottom of the national temperament, and people like to recognize this vein in their poets. The ancient Gothic race is not yet dead. A defiant, Titanic strain pervades the people as a racial trait.

*"Nordens kraft är trots, och falla  
är en seger för oss alla;  
ty förr än man föll till slut,  
fick man ändå kämpa ut.  
Stormar det, han gärna brottas  
emot stormen, gärna blottas  
ludet bröst, att åskan må  
veta hur han bäst kan slå. (Gerda)*

"A cold but fresh and clear winter's day, which invigorates all

human faculties and steels them for victorious battle against a harsh nature, is the natural image of the Northern temperament. Where this clear sky is present, where this fresh wind blows, the nation recognizes something akin to its own inner life, and for the sake of it is willing to bear with many poetic shortcomings. I can think of no better explanation."

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**E**SAIAS TEGNÉR was born at Frykerud, Värmland, in 1782. His father and his mother's father were both clergymen, but were the sons of peasants, and the poet therefore came of peasant stock on both sides. The father died when Esaias was ten years old, leaving the family with very little means, but the bright, attractive little "Esse" was singularly fortunate in finding kind friends. The local bailiff, Branting, took him as a kind of apprentice, but soon realized that the boy was too gifted to be kept in a rural bailiff's office. It was arranged that he should go to his brother, Lars Gustav, who was tutor first in the Löwenhielm, afterwards in the Myhrman family. In both these homes the young tutor's little brother was accepted as a member of the family and shared the lessons of the children.

With some help from Myhrman and Branting, Tegnér was able to enter Lund University. He had already as a child revealed not only great natural aptitude but also an unusual capacity for work. He learned languages with astonishing rapidity and lived in the world of books which in this way he unlocked for himself. At the University he studied as much as eighteen and twenty hours a day, and at twenty years of age took his *magister* degree as the first in a class of thirty-four. The same summer he was engaged to Anna Myhrman, and in 1806, after he had become instructor at Lund, they were married. She was his faithful companion for forty years, and whatever his vagaries, he always remained deeply attached to her.

Tegnér's debut as a poet was in 1808 with his *War Song to the Scanian Reserves*, occasioned by Russia's attack upon Finland. His patriotic poem *Svea* won him the grand prize of the Swedish Academy, in 1811. The following year, when only thirty years old, he was appointed professor of Greek at Lund, the chair being in fact created for him. This period in his life, when he was absorbed in congenial work and surrounded by admiring friends and pupils, was his most productive period as a poet. He wrote the narrative poem *Axel*, with a subject from the time of Charles XII, the epic cycle *Frithiof's Saga*, *Children of the Lord's Supper*, and numerous shorter poems.

In 1824 Tegnér left Lund to become bishop at Växjö. The position carried with it a great many executive duties. The new bishop worked energetically especially to improve the standards of the rural clergy, getting rid of besotted and ignorant clergymen. The bishop's farm also took much of his time, and he was *ex officio* a member of the Riksdag. He wrote but little, though one of his most famous poems, *Melancholy*, dates from this period. It presaged the mental disease which broke out in him, in 1840. He was taken to an asylum where he remained until the following year. After his return to his home, he wrote his last long poem, *The Crown Bride*, an idyllic picture of rural Sweden. Tegnér died in 1846.

# Farewell to My Lyre

By ESAIAS TEGNÉR

Translated from the Swedish by

CHARLES WHARTON STORK

**F**AREWELL, my lyre! for now the course is run.  
Lay thee to sleep; our singing-time is done.  
Before thy tones my sorrow often fled  
As Saul's of old. The echoes of them sped  
Through many a good, yea, far more worthy breast.  
I'm done with thee. Be still, and take they rest!

"*Svea*" I once did sing and "*Frithiof's Lay*,"  
To Nature, Man, and God mine anthems rang:  
In sober truth I lived but when I sang.  
From north to south the winds did shift and sway,  
My poor heart had from thorns full many a pang,  
But many a rose would charm the pain away.  
I scarce can tell—my days have seemed so brief—  
If I had more of joy or more of grief.

Thou wert my weapon, naught but thee I carried.  
Thou wert my shield, none other could I get.  
We went upon adventures, never tarried,  
We once would conquer everything we met.  
But at the grave the scutcheon must be shattered;  
God bids me now depart, my race is dead or scattered.

Thou Poetry, where erst my soul did dwell,  
Spirit of heaven, farewell, a long farewell!  
I must go hence, my days will be but few.  
Thou wert my everything; the Good, the True.  
I loved thee before all and over all;  
From heaven thou dost beckon me and call.

The day shall dawn when, from my ashes rising,  
A bard shall come to sing with bolder might  
A strain more lofty than my best devising,  
A song I dreamed not ere my strength took flight,  
Of all that's noble in our Northland story,  
Of all the might that still is Sweden's glory.

Farewell! I end where I began with thee,  
O Song, my only true Reality,

*Life of my life, the undying spark within me;  
 I part, though to the parting scarce I win me.  
 Brothers, the time's not yet, but on some day  
 We'll part no more, have no farewells to say.—  
 But now, farewell! The parting's not for long.  
 Wither, ye laurels, round my temples gray,  
 Die on my lips, O thou, my final song!*



BUST OF TEGNÉR, IN THE TEGNÉR  
 MUSEUM AT LUND

*Johan Niklas Byström, Sculptor*

## Tegnér's Drapa

*By HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW*

**I**HEARD A VOICE, that cried,  
 "Balder the Beautiful  
 Is dead, is dead!"  
 And through the misty air  
 Passed like the mournful cry  
 Of sunward sailing cranes.

*I saw the pallid corpse  
 Of the dead sun  
 Borne through the Northern sky.  
 Blasts from Niffelheim  
 Lifted the sheeted mists  
 Around him as he passed.*

*And the voice for ever cried,  
"Balder the Beautiful  
Is dead, is dead!"  
And died away  
Through the dreary night,  
In accents of despair.*

*Balder the Beautiful,  
God of the summer sun,  
Fairest of all the Gods!  
Light from his forehead beamed,  
Runes were upon his tongue,  
As on the warrior's sword.*

*All things in earth and air  
Bound were by magic spell  
Never to do him harm;  
Even the plants and stones;  
All save the mistletoe,  
The sacred mistletoe!*

*Hæder, the blind old God,  
Whose feet are shod with silence,  
Pierced through the gentle breast  
With his sharp spear, by fraud  
Made of the mistletoe,  
The accursed mistletoe!*

*They laid him in his ship,  
With horse and harness,  
As on a funeral pyre.  
Odin placed  
A ring upon his finger,  
And whispered in his ear.*

*They launched the burning ship!  
It floated far away  
Over the misty sea,  
Till like the sun it seemed,  
Sinking beneath the waves.  
Balder returned no more!*

*So perish the old Gods!  
But out of the sea of Time  
Rises a new land of song  
Fairer than the old.  
Over its meadows green  
Walk the young bards and sing.*

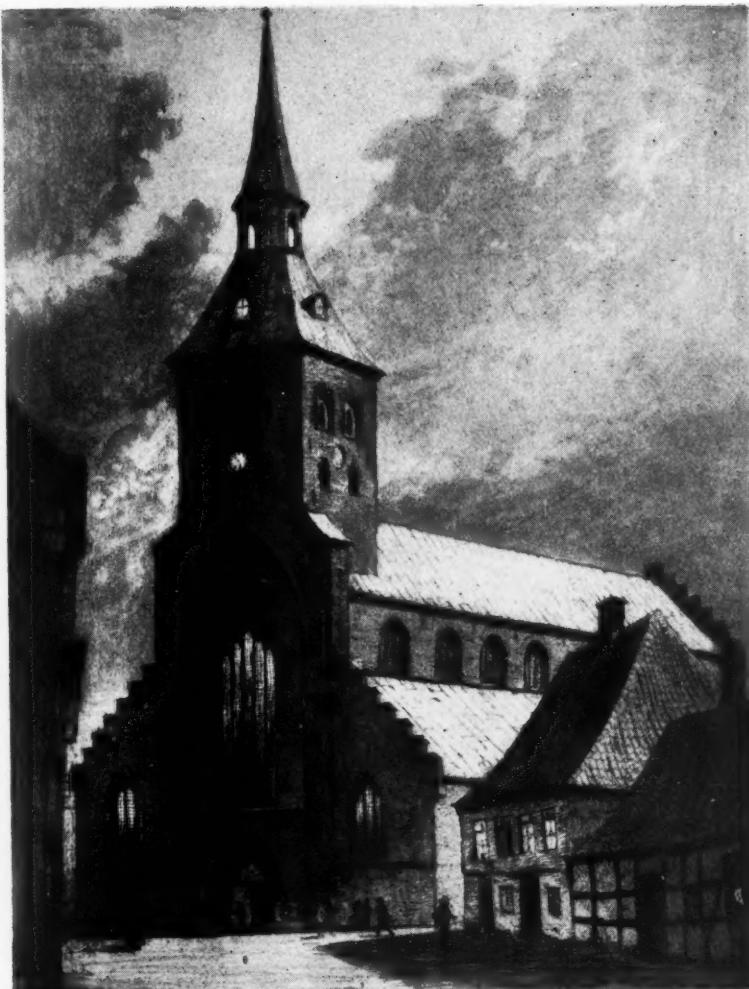
*Build it again,  
O ye bards,  
Fairer than before!  
Ye fathers of the new race,  
Feed upon morning dew,  
Sing the new Song of Love!*

*The law of force is dead!  
The law of love prevails!  
Thor, the thunderer,  
Shall rule the earth no more,  
No more, with threats,  
Challenge the meek Christ.*

*Sing no more,  
O ye bards of the North,  
Of Vikings and of Jarls!  
Of the days of Eld  
Preserve the freedom only,  
Not the deed of blood!*

---

LONGFELLOW visited Sweden in the summer of 1835 in order to study Swedish literature before assuming his position as professor of modern languages at Harvard. In Sweden he acquired a copy of *Frithiof's Saga* which is still preserved in Craigie House with his pencilled markings. In 1837 he published in *The North American Review* his famous article on Tegnér's poetic cycle with fragmentary translations. He sent a copy to Tegnér, who replied that of the translations he had seen the only one that fully satisfied him was the Herr Professor's, and it had only one fault, namely that it was not complete. It was never completed, but Longfellow translated instead *The Children of the Lord's Supper*. The two never met, but when the news came of Tegnér's death Longfellow wrote his *Tegnér's Drapa*, in which the Swedish poet is impersonated as Balder.



*Etching by Nic. Hammer*

ST. KNUD'S CHURCH

## Historic Towns of Denmark

### IV. Odense, the City of Hans Christian Andersen

**I**N the heart of Denmark lies Funen, and in the heart of Funen, Odense. So far as our knowledge goes, it is the oldest of Denmark's cities, but wide awake and alert as any of its younger sisters.

Because of its island situation, Odense can carry on trade only by water. Since 1803 the city has been connected with the outer world by means of a canal which has allowed small boats to pass out into the



ST. ALBAN'S MARKET WITH ST. KNUD'S CHURCH



THE CRYPT OF ST. KNUD'S

and Odin's Ve gradually became Odense. The name therefore goes back to heathen times. There can be no doubt that Odense was the centre of population in Funen when Queen Tyra in the ninth century sent messengers to the people, there as in other parts of Denmark, commanding every man who could lift a spade to meet her at the boundary of the kingdom and help to build the wall at Slien to keep out the enemies in the south.

In the year 987 Odense is mentioned in a historic document.

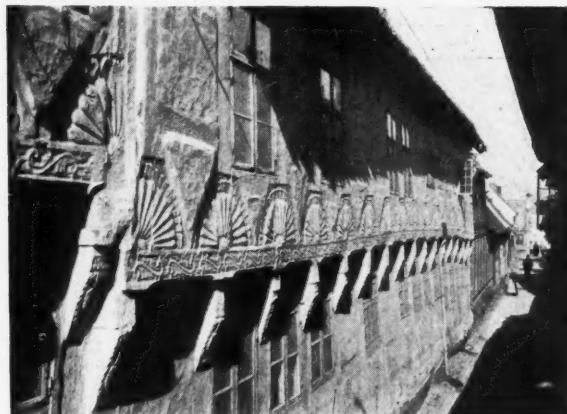
fjord and the sea beyond. This canal has several times been widened, and work has now been begun which, when completed, will allow ocean steamers to dock at the wharves of Odense.

How old is Odense? When did the people who in the hoary past settled by the river become so numerous that they raised a place of worship for Odin? *Ve* it was called,



ODENSE CASTLE, BUILT IN 1720

On the spot where on market days a lively trade in flowers, meat, vegetables, cheese, eggs and other farm products is carried on under an open sky, a wooden church to the honor of St. Alban was built in very early times. The imperious ruler King St. Knud laid the foundation of a new stone church near the old wooden one, but before the walls were raised he met his death there. During an uprising of peasants in 1086 the king with a small group of followers headed by his brother Benedict was pursued by the rebels. He took refuge in the church, but was killed as he knelt in prayer before the altar, forgiving his enemies. So many signs and miracles were noted at his grave that the pope canonized him. We may still see the remains of the cloth with woven pictures in which his body was wrapped, as well as the reliquary which in former days the monks used to carry through the city with song and



MØNTESTREDE



THE PLACE BY THE RIVER WHERE IT IS SAID ANDERSEN'S MOTHER WASHED CLOTHES

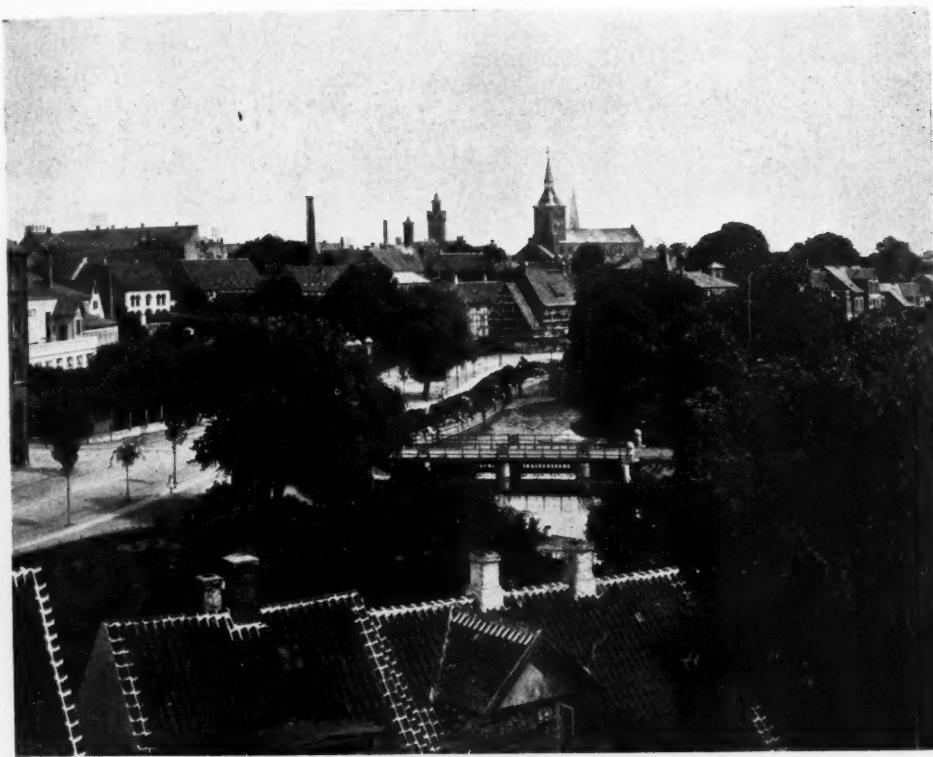


EJLER RÖNNOW's HOUSE, BUILT 1547, NOW USED AS  
A FOLK MUSEUM

prayer on the night before St. Knud's Day, while the devout, many of whom had come from afar to seek healing, knelt in the streets. A flag-stone in the pavement of St. Alban's market still commemorates the death of the sainted king.

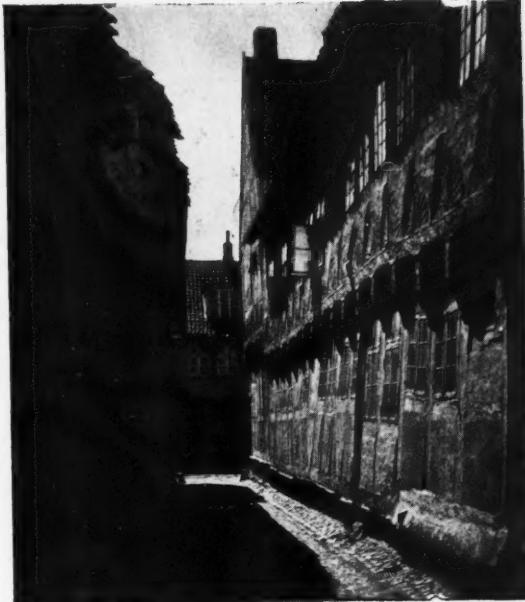
Where many people gather, trade flourishes. The city grew. About 1300 the present St. Knud's church was built, the most beautiful Gothic church in the North. In the crypt are the reliquary of St. Knud and the graves of several Danish kings and queens.

In the early part of the sixteenth century the noted



ODENSE RIVER AT MONKS' MOOR

sculptor in wood, Claus Berg, was called in from Lübeck at the behest of Queen Kristina to carve an altarpiece for the church. He worked on it for eight years with twelve journeymen assistants. With its three hundred skillfully fashioned figures and its rich, mellow gilding, it is one of the best specimens of wood sculpture north of the Alps. It is still to be seen in St. Knud's church. In connection with the church was St. Knud's convent where Elnoth of England wrote the first book ever written in Denmark, and where the oldest Danish church bell that bears a date



MØNTERGAARD IN MØNTERSTRÆDE. ONE OF ODENSE'S TYPICAL OLD STREETS



THE MIDDLE PORTION AND BASE OF THE FAMOUS ALTPICE CARVED IN 1520.  
BELOW ARE PORTRAIT LIKENESSES OF DANISH KINGS AND QUEENS KNEELING  
BEFORE THE SAVIOR

was cast. The bell still hangs in the tower of St. Knud's. The convent was crumbling, but has now been restored and is used as a library and meeting place. In the adjoining garden are planted old-fashioned healing herbs.

Other venerable buildings are the churches of St. Hans and of Our Lady, the cloister for ladies of the nobility, and Eiler Rönnow's house, now used as a folk museum, although the city also owns a modern museum building.

Odense river runs through the town, and bordering it is Monks' Moor, now one of the most beautiful parks in the city. A little over a hundred years ago it was an uncultivated moor, where the stork, the fairy tale bird which nests in Denmark but makes winter excursions to Africa, had its home. On the gate sometimes hung an uncouth boy, lost in dreams that carried him away from a narrow workaday world. His name was Hans Christian Andersen, and he lived in one of the tiny houses near by. Now his statue stands in the city of his birth, of which in his lifetime he was made an honorary citizen. In the little house where it is supposed that he was born the city has arranged a fairy tale museum in honor of the world's greatest writer of fairy tales.

The citizens of Odense guard the historical traditions of their town, but they do not forget the demands of the present or the possibilities of the future. Several large industrial and commercial enterprises are found there, and the farmers of Funen have often co-operated with the merchants of Odense for the common good. The Dalum agricultural institute near the city teaches modern agriculture to the young farmers of the neighborhood, and there is another school especially adapted to the *Husband*, the small tenant farmer.

When we stand at the railway station with its stately building and turn for a last look at the town, we see "the King's Garden," a park with old shady lanes, and Odense castle, a gem of architecture. There are statues in honor of Andersen, of Kingo the hymn-writer, who was bishop of Odense, and of Tietgen, the noted captain of industry, who was a native of the town.

Funen has been called the garden of Denmark. With good railroad connections and excellent roads, it is easily accessible—a fact that will be appreciated by any one who wants to visit Odense, the beautiful modern city with its venerable mementoes of the past.



MONUMENT TO H. C. ANDERSEN IN ODENSE  
*L. Hasselriis Sculptor*

## Ellen Key's Early Home

*By Her Sister*

HEDDA KEY-RASMUSSEN

**I**N BRITTANY there is a beautiful old legend about a cradle of gold in which the people laid their past to rest and carried it up on a mountain top to lull it to sleep in the sunset—like the father who rocks his little son in his arms although the child is dead.



SUNDSHOLM

Any one who caught the undertone of grief in Ellen Key's voice when even in her old age she spoke of her childhood home might well bring to mind the old Brittany legend. Her regret, too, never ceased to need lulling to sleep; for, she once wrote, "My love of that home and my early awakened fear of losing it held the largest place

in my emotional life all through my youth."

And how *could* she forget it? Even in that lovely corner of north-eastern Småland, Tjust, gently sloping down to the sea and dotted with castles and manors famous for their beautiful environs, it would be hard to find another home so framed in whispering forest and rippling waves as the long, low, one-story white house on the flower-decked point in Lake Maren which bore the name of Sundholm.

High over roof and gables rose the old oaks which had seen generations born and generations laid to rest. Ever higher and more mighty these giants lifted their crowns as a shelter for flocks of songsters, while at their feet bloomed all the brightest flowers of the earth, and beyond them the sunny lake decked with water-lillies meandered around birch-clad islands or beat against steep, spruce-covered shores.

This tender, ingratiating idyl received a note of strength from the heaven-high, centuries-old lane of poplars that led down between fragrant clover meadows to the white house on the point. To the right was a group of large modern farm buildings, barns, stables, and granaries.

Sundholm was of ancient lineage as befitted the chief manor in Gladhammar parish. Its origin is hidden in the mists of prehistoric times. One reason for this may be that formerly the ocean came in

where there is now dry land. In a splendid oak grove beyond the hayfields of the estate have been found many barrows, one containing a buried ship which would indicate that a king or chieftain had been laid to rest there. Numerous finds of weapons, ornaments, and coins from the Stone Age and the Bronze Age as well as from later times have been turned up by the plough and spade. Some of these gave plausibility to the story of King Marung—the manor in olden times was called Maråkra—who fell in a fight against the neighboring king Samsung at Samsvik. The battle is supposed to have raged in one of the fields of Sundsholm.

Leaving the shadowy pictures of the saga behind, we may trace the known history of the estate in the old land records of the locality. During the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries it was owned by the noble families of Trolle, Sparre, and others. Mementoes of these days were found only in the magnificent escutcheons and in the banners wound in black which hung over the Sundsholm pew in the choir of the tiny shingled church which dated from very early times. There hung also the sword with which a Sparre, pursued by a troll, cut off its head, when he was so lucky as to come upon a ploughed furrow in the form of a *cross* in the field over which he was riding.

There were no buildings or ruins of the castle extant in Ellen's time, but an old woman called Mother Maja told her of a hunting pavilion which she remembered from before it was torn down—she spoke of huge roof-beams, tapestries of gilded leather, and a panel in high relief picturing hunting scenes which ran all around the room. Nothing now remains of this magnificence except a handsome red brick fire-place which still adorns the living-room in the home of Ellen's sister. The wealth once possessed by the great families of Sundsholm was evident also in the little church and the precious gifts with which they had endowed it, a splendid altarpiece with sculptured figures, a pulpit made of different kinds of wood and hand-carved throughout, a clock, and several other things. Now all these relics have been banished by the vandalism of a later generation, though fortunately some of them have been preserved in the National Museum at Stockholm.

In 1847 the manor came into the hands of a new owner. Young Emil Key, born on the estate of Ed in northern Tjust and just returned from several years of travel abroad, bought it, and in 1849 he brought to it his young bride, Countess Sophie Posse, after a great wedding at her father's estate, Björnö, near Kalmarsund.

The home he offered her was stamped by his own personality, colored by his own literary and esthetic temperament and by the artistic taste he had cultivated during his long sojourn abroad. From Paris and Italy he brought furniture and works of art, from Copen-



ELLEN KEY IN HER HOME STRAND

Ellen Key was past sixty when she was able to build her own home "Strand" on the steep bank of Lake Wettern. The plans were drawn by her brother-in-law, Fru Key-Rasmussen's husband, and she was not content until they resembled as nearly as possible her childhood home, Sundsholm, which she could never forget. In her new home she arranged the things she had saved from her parent's house.

hagen reproductions from Thorvaldsen. One whole room was given over to his valuable library.

The two young people divided between them the work for the home which was the sanctuary of their happiness. He, the born poet and romanticist, put away the poets on the top library shelf and, without a sigh, plunged into books on agriculture. He cherished a youthful dream which he was trying to put into practice, a dream inspired by two pioneers in the field, Edvard Nonnen and L. W. Kylberg. Like them he wanted to work up a model farm by modern scientific methods and found pleasant homes for contented and efficient workmen whose livelihood would thus be assured.

In part his dream was realized, for no servant or tenant ever left him, and the farm was improved until it became the best in the county. He was elected to most of the positions of trust in the neighborhood and became a member of the agricultural academy. Indeed the school for farm managers was removed to Sundsholm, after he had demonstrated, at a meeting of the agricultural society held on his estate,



ELLEN KEY WITH BROTHER AND HOUSEKEEPER

During the later years of her life Ellen Key had with her a devoted friend in Amalie Blomsterberg who, originally engaged as a servant, became almost as a daughter. Her death, a few months before that of her mistress, was a great grief to Ellen Key. To a friend who visited Strand the winter before, "Malin" remarked that Ellen Key was one of the great who did not become small when seen in everyday life.

the excellence of his system, the new methods in rotation of crops, forestry, cooling milk with ice—which was then quite new—and so on.

Economically he was not so successful. This was due partly to poor soil and lack of capital, partly also, it must be confessed, to the young owner's idealism. It was common in those days to weather bad years on the farms by the aid of the profits from brandy distilleries, but this was a means Emil Key would never use. Another source of income often resorted to when interest payments fell due was to cut timber from the estate, but this expedient also was a horror to him with his esthetic sense. It may be granted that he sometimes put considerations of beauty and sentiment ahead of utility and economy, but who can censure him for that? And the work he did remains after him. The excellently developed farm and the solid, well-planned farm-buildings even now win the highest praise from experts.

The young wife took the large, newly laid out garden as her province. Soon the whole neighborhood was provided with fruit

trees from the nurseries of Sundsholm. She imported rare shrubs and sent to Holland and Germany for seeds and bulbs. The modern dairy—the best in the county—the large poultry yard with hundreds of chickens, geese, and turkeys, the weaving-room with its looms always going, the spinning from the whole estate, the providing food for her growing household which at last numbered twelve in the dining-room and twelve in the kitchen—all this made the burden of work which she cheerfully shouldered, and which, in spite of frail health, she carried with undaunted courage. To the people on the estate she was doctor, friend, and counsellor in great things and small.

Around these parents—both strong personalities formed on lines of grandeur and nobility—six children grew up, the oldest being Ellen. In this home where ideals were placed above everything else, where the spirit was one of harmony, where the eyes of the children always met genuine works of art, and where their intelligence was developed by a finely cultivated art of living, so that body and soul became like tempered steel, in this atmosphere it was no wonder that Ellen with her rich gifts, appreciated and valued from her childhood, should develop into what she became. It would be tempting to trace the connection of the one with the other, but it is only of the home itself that I would write to-day.

No one could hold her home in higher esteem than did Ellen Key. She rightly attributed to it a large share in her development. In an article on her home district she says: "Of Sundsholm, the home where I was born and grew up and where until my forty-first year I spent at least a third of every year, I can hardly bring myself to speak even now. One does not readily tear the bandages from a wound from which one has almost bled to death. The spot where our childish soul first awakened to all the impressions of life, where we played, read, dreamed, hoped, loved, and suffered, that place is one with our very heart's blood. To lose it works the greatest injury to our life. When one attains to my age, then memory is only another name for regret, and when it is a question of our childhood home, then regret is only a paler name for grief."

When we read such words we can not but feel that, despite fame and honor and success, "the innermost heart of it all is—tears."



## Immigration: a Symposium

Representative ALBERT JOHNSON  
Professor GEORGE M. STEPHENSON  
ARTHUR BRISBANE  
Governor FRANK O. LOWDEN  
Senator PETER NORBECK  
Representative CARL R. CHINDBLOM

Senator HENRIK SHIPSTEAD  
Dr. HARRY H. LAUGHLIN  
CHARLES H. DENNIS  
WILLIAM GREEN  
Senator JAMES COUZENS  
Senator SMITH W. BROOKHART

*THE PRINCIPLE of restriction has been almost universally accepted as necessary in dealing with the problem of immigration to the United States. Through acts of Congress, through declarations of policy by the executive branch of our government, and through the press we are assured that it is the part of foresight and prudence to control the growth of our population through the accession of immigrants; and the same opinion is echoed by people generally.*

*There can be no question of the correctness of this principle, but the degree and kind of restriction and the theories upon which it is based leave room for honest disagreement. There must be some immigration. America may guard her doors, but she has no intention of locking them altogether. Those who seek admission are sometimes kinsmen and dependents of people already here; sometimes refugees from oppression who have been led to believe that here is a sanctuary; sometimes colonizers of the kind who have built our nation, or skilled workers whom our farms and industries need. The problem is to determine how many our country can safely absorb annually, and on what basis the national quotas shall be computed. If there is to be discrimination against races or nationalities, it should be so logical, so natural, and so automatically applied that none will be justified in rancor.*

*The present Immigration Law is based on the ideal of homogeneity. It is taken for granted that the inhabitants of these United States are ultimately to be fused, as Saxon and Norman and Teuton and Celt have been fused in England. The desire to admit chiefly representatives of races that are most closely allied to the original American stock in blood and character is not, therefore, wholly an outcropping of bumptious nationalism, but is founded on a belief that this system of selection is productive of the happiest results for America. Unfortunately it is a principle that is exceedingly difficult to carry out in practice. The present method of estimating the quotas to be admitted has worked some hardship on groups generally regarded as desirable. By a provision of the law which is known as the "national origins" clause, and which is to go into effect next July unless modified by Congress, some of these groups will be practically excluded, among them the Scandinavian.*

*With a view to presenting the law exactly as it is, so that our readers can judge for themselves, the REVIEW has assembled the opinions, briefly expressed, of some leaders in American public life, including senators, congressmen, governors, nationally known editors, and one noted labor leader.*

#### The "National Origins" Proviso

For a statement of the immigration law and its new proviso we naturally turn to the committee in the House of Representatives responsible for the supervision of immigration and the laws that concern it. Representative ALBERT JOHNSON, chairman of the House Committee on Immigration, last July issued the following statement:

"Under the so-called 'National origins' provision, the total of all quotas would be set at 150,000, and this number would be allocated, not according to the number of foreign-born residents in this country, but upon the basis of the proportionate numerical strength of nationalities among the whole population of the United States. The census of 1920 would be used, the national origins of all the people would be calculated, and for example if it should be found that a particular nationality contributed one-tenth of the whole population, that nationality would have one-tenth of the total quota, or 15,000."

#### A Motion to Repeal

We turn next to an opponent of the new provision. Senator HENRIK SHIPSTEAD of Minnesota has introduced into the Senate an amendment to the Immigration Law to repeal the proviso for "national origins" and allow the quotas of all countries to remain the same as at present. When introducing his amendment, Senator Shipstead issued the following statement, which he has sent the REVIEW:

"The Immigration Law approved May 26th, 1924, provides by paragraph 'a' that the quota of immigrants of any nationality shall be 2 percentum of the number of foreign-born individuals of such nationality resident in continental United States as determined by the United States census of 1890. But by paragraph 'b' of said section, it is provided that for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 1927, and any fiscal year there-

after, the annual quota of any nationality shall be a number which bears the same ratio to 150,000 as the number of inhabitants in continental United States in 1920 having that national origin bears to the number of inhabitants in continental United States in 1920.

"Paragraph 'a' under which the present quota is ascertained is easily understood. All there is to do to determine the number of immigrants that can come to the United States from any foreign country is to take 2 per cent of the foreign-born individuals of such nationality residing in the United States as shown by the census of 1890. By paragraph 'b' which goes into effect July 1st, 1927, the annual quota of any country is not based upon the number of foreign-born individuals of any nationality residing in the United States, but upon the number of inhabitants in the United States having that national origin. The wording of paragraph 'b' cannot be easily explained in a brief statement, and will not be fully understood until computations are made showing how the present quota allotments will be changed after 1927.

"The first question which arises when we come to apply paragraph 'b' is: Can the number of inhabitants residing in the United States in the year 1920 having a certain national origin be ascertained? When we consider that over 300 years have elapsed since the immigration from Holland began which has continued ever since, the intermarriages with other nationalities, and the scattering of the descendants of these immigrants all over the United States, how can we determine a just and fair quota for Holland under this section? The law provides that such determination shall not be made by tracing the ancestors of descendants of particular individuals, but shall be based upon statistics of immigration and emigration, together with the rates of increase of population as shown by successive decennial

U. S. censuses and such other data as may be found to be reliable.

"A little study of the above rules for determining the ratio will soon convince us that the determination of the ratio under paragraph 'b' will be nothing but guess-work. Statistics of immigration until recent years are very incomplete, and without these, any computation based on increase in population would be of no value. No official computation has been completed."

Senator Shipstead goes on to quote the unofficial figures presented by the Carnegie Institution from which it is seen that the number of Scandinavians to be admitted will be decreased as follows: the Swedish quota will be reduced from 9,561 to 3,707; the Norwegian, from 6,453 to 2,433; the Danish to 1,000. The greatest increase will be shown by the British and North Irish contingent.

#### An Official Opinion

The Commissioner General of Immigration favors the repealing of the "national origins" provision and the retention of the present method of determining the quotas. In his annual report for the year ending June 30, 1925, he makes the following official recommendation:

"The bureau feels that the present method of ascertaining the quotas is far more satisfactory than the proposed determination by national origin, that it has the advantage of simplicity and certainty. It is of the opinion that the proposed change will lead to great confusion and result in complexities, and accordingly it is recommended that the pertinent portions of section II, providing for this revision of the quotas, as they now stand, be rescinded."

#### The Scientist Speaks

Dr. Harry H. Laughlin, of the Eugenics Record Office of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, was designated by the Department of Labor to go to Europe and make a survey of immigration.

Dr. Laughlin has prepared for the REVIEW this statement on the "Mutual National Interests in Immigration":

"The several Scandinavian countries, while not over-populated, find that a portion of their annual population-increase can find better economic opportunities in the countries which are less developed economically, consequently Scandinavia continues to export a few emigrants each year. Immigrants from Scandinavia have always assimilated well into the American body politic, and, within their quota, will always be welcomed by the United States. Economic opportunity is the greatest single factor in present-day human migration. America is still an immigrant-receiving country, and will doubtless continue to remain so until the economic opportunity presented to the immigrant without capital will be equalized between the United States on the one hand and the world in general on the other. The same principle holds true for each pair of countries.

"The United States has recently abandoned the rule of natural economic opportunity as the chief criterion for immigration control, and has established the principle of quota distribution in order to insure continued development along American lines. But more important still, within the quota it is gradually raising the individual and family-stock standards for immigration from each nation. The biological standard now prevails uppermost. The American people have learned to look upon an immigrant as a potential parent of future Americans, and prizes, more highly than his present economic worth, the soundness and educability of the blood which he carries. All future immigrants must be so endowed by heredity that they will add something of value to the natural stock of the American people of the future.

"From the standpoint of Scandinavia, this principle will doubtless be consid-

ered as both sound and favorable. If any country would, in the long run, influence national character through the improvement of human blood in new countries, it must export as parents only its surplus superior stock. It cannot purge its own race by emigration. Each nation must solve, at home, its problems of degeneracy. Good hereditary stock as emigrants will repay the mother countries better long-time returns than will the emigration of persons of low natural worth. Scandinavia has many splendidly endowed family stocks. Let the surplus members of such families establish new and larger families in America. HARRY H. LAUGHLIN."

#### A Second Expert

George M. Stephenson is Assistant Professor of History in the University of Minnesota. He is also author of a *History of American Immigration, 1820-1924*, and of numerous articles on Swedish immigration to the land which Fredrika Bremer in 1849 prophetically called "a new Scandinavia." He makes this plea for fair play:

"Some of us who are unfortunate enough to be stigmatized as 'liberals' by the drastic immigration-restrictionists have all along objected to the principle of the immigration act of 1924. Any measure based upon racial or national discrimination is unwise, not to say dangerous.

"The Scandinavians, however, have no greater reason to feel aggrieved over the operation of the 'national origins' provision than do the peoples of Southern and Eastern Europe over the present quota. For voters of Scandinavian descent to urge their senators and congressmen to vote for the retention of the present quota distribution is to ask them to remove the lash from the Scandinavian skin and to allow the darker European skins to smart indefinitely. Let the Scandinavians urge Congress to enact a law that will promote assimilation without

deliberately offending certain nationalities. GEORGE M. STEPHENSON."

#### Two Great Editors

Victor F. Lawson, a son of a Norwegian immigrant, was acknowledged the dean of American publishers. It was he who created *The Chicago Daily News*, and it is not surprising to hear the present editor of his paper say this:

"During many years I have been associated with representatives of our Scandinavian-American citizenship. Throughout these associations I have been impressed by their high quality both morally and intellectually, by their thrift and self-reliance and particularly by their loyal support of American institutions. Their Americanization is so simple a process that one might almost say they were fully Americanized from the moment they set foot on American soil. To become naturalized and to join heartily in the work of building up their adopted country is with them a matter of course. We of the central west have abundant proof of the enormous benefit that has come to this nation through immigration from Scandinavian countries.

"So far as I can discover there has been no deterioration in the quality of this immigration. I think every American ought deplore any discriminatory law that cuts down the present quota of Scandinavian immigrants. From this stock, in every generation, spring true Americans of the most valuable types."

CHARLES H. DENNIS."

And beside this we place the typically pungent sentences of an editor, Arthur Brisbane, whose weekly readers number millions:

"I regret that our immigration laws exclude from the United States what it needs more than anything else, intelligent men and women from Europe.

"Especially to be regretted is the loss of immigration from Scandinavian countries. A trip through the Northwest

shows what Sweden and Norway and Denmark have done for this country. They have contributed hard work, high intelligence, and one thing that the country needs more than it needs money—  
**A TRULY DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT.**

ARTHUR BRISBANE."

#### Labor's Spokesman

At the age of eighteen William Green went to work in the mines. When Samuel Gompers died, Mr. Green was head of the miners' union and he became immediately President of the most powerful labor organization in the world, the American Federation of Labor. From the executive offices in Washington he addresses the *REVIEW*:

"The American Federation of Labor is in favor of restricted immigration. Obviously there are some nationalities that the American Federation of Labor seeks to restrict to a greater extent than others. This has been particularly true of the Chinese.

"We have never discriminated against Scandinavian immigration. So far as I know the Scandinavian immigrants have proved themselves to be worthy American citizens.

"Generally speaking the American Federation of Labor is in favor of a fair trial of the present immigration law. Those who come to America should be a type and class of people who will be worthy citizens, readily assimilated into our national, social, and industrial life, and who will believe in American institutions and in the American form of government.

WILLIAM GREEN."

#### An Illinois Republican

Frank O. Lowden, former Governor of Illinois, comes from the corn-belt which produced Lincoln, and is himself a farmer to whom farmers properly look for leadership. Recently he has visited the Scandinavian countries to study agricultural methods and organization. His word on the new immigration provision is this:

"I am just in receipt of your letter of August 6. I am obliged to confess that I am not familiar with the terms of the new Immigration Law. If, however, one of its effects is to reduce the Scandinavian quota I, for one, am sorry. There are no better nor more useful American citizens than those of Scandinavian origin.

FRANK O. LOWDEN."

#### Opinions from the Senate and House

"I believe in restricted immigration, but that part of the law which goes into operation next July is almost an exclusion act—that is, if we are to give credence to the forecasts from unofficial sources. Congress will no doubt take notice of this question next winter.

PETER NORBECK."

"From newspaper articles I have observed there may be some modification or change in the law during the next Session of Congress. Not being on the Immigration Committee, I am not as familiar with the immigration laws as I might otherwise be. Therefore, I must refrain from making any comments on the matter until it comes up for consideration—if it does come up at the next Session of Congress.

JAMES COUZENS."

"You may say in the *AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW* that, while I favor general policy of immigration restriction at this time, I am opposed to national origins plan for quota allotment and will join in effort next Session of Congress to prevent enforcement of that provision of present law next July.

CARL R. CHINDBLOM."

"Yours in reference to the immigration law received. I am not familiar enough with the details to discuss this proposition with sufficient accuracy, but I am in sympathy with the general idea expressed in your circular.

SMITH W. BROOKHART."

# CURRENT EVENTS



## U.S.A.

¶ President Coolidge's return to Washington from his summer vacation gave fresh impetus to political discussion, and brought to the fore some of the outstanding problems to be solved by the administration and the Congress. ¶ Preliminary to active participation in the affairs of state, as radiating from the White House, the President's interview with Bruce Barton as published in the newspapers that are members of the Associated Press caused a mild sensation, since the Chief Executive was in this instance prevailed upon to depart from precedent and allow himself to be quoted directly to the American people. Mr. Coolidge's frank talk proved an interesting revelation of the human side of the head of the nation, chatting as he did informally and answering some of the questions which are often in the minds of his fellow-citizens. ¶ The great Florida disaster for the moment leveled all political and factional differences and made the nation as one in furnishing quick and open-handed relief to the stricken regions. The National Headquarters at Washington made an initial contribution of \$100,000 with money pouring in from all parts of the country and all classes of people and organizations. Even as the debris was being cleared away, plans were perfected for rebuilding on a more solid foundation, much of the trouble from the hurricane being charged to hasty and careless construction in the first instance. ¶ When the final session of the Sixty-ninth Congress begins in November a sweeping reduction in Federal taxes will be the first demand of the Democrats, as announced by Senator Furnifold M. Simmons of North Carolina, senior minor-

ity member of the Senate Committee on Finance. President Coolidge, however, is opposed to this proposal, and his objection is based on the assertion that a cut of more than \$500,000,000, as proposed, can not be made if the government's policy of paying off the national debt and piling up a surplus to cancel Liberty Bonds is to be carried out.



## DENMARK

¶ Among the many questions discussed at the meeting of the Scandinavian Interparliamentary Congress, held in Copenhagen, more adequate insurance for the masses was considered of paramount importance. Greater co-operation between the Scandinavian countries was advocated as ultimately benefiting the political status of the North. ¶ As a preliminary to the League of Nations giving consideration to the problem of the white slave traffic at its meeting in Geneva next year, a conference was held in Copenhagen with fourteen countries represented. Former Director of Police Dybdal presided. In view of the number of young women leaving Scandinavian ports annually, the conference took the position that it was of vital importance that better protection be afforded them. ¶ A more systematic cultivation of the Danish heath has been proposed to the Danish Government by men who have given the matter close study as a means towards meeting the unemployment situation. A deputation called on the minister of agriculture, Mr. Bording, and laid before him a plan to the effect that the government purchase certain districts suitable for cultivation and assist in the making of new homes there. Mr. Hauge, the minister of the interior, is of the opinion that instead of the State buying up the land, private initiative should be stimulated by

money and moral support. ¶ *Berlingske Tidende* publishes a report from its correspondent in Russia who, after visiting the Scandinavian section of the foreign department's commissary, writes that the Soviet Union is highly satisfied with its economic relations with the Scandinavian countries. This applied particularly to companies holding concessions in Russia for the development of the country's natural resources.



## NORWAY

¶ The negotiations for a new wages agreement in the paper industry having failed, a lockout commenced August 15, affecting 12,500 workers. The employers demanded a reduction of wages, amounting to 27 per cent. In the electrochemical industry both the workers and the employers accepted the public mediator's proposal for a new wages tariff. Wages were reduced by 15 per cent. ¶ The Constitutional Court of the Realm which has to deal with the impeachment of Ex-Premier Abraham Berge and his colleagues, met on September 3. The defendants being entitled, according to the Constitution, to challenge one-third of the court, decided to set aside 13 of the members, representing the Odelsting. The challenged members belong to the Left and the Labor Party. Having been reduced in this way, the court consists of 27 persons. The main proceedings will commence in October and are expected to occupy a couple of months. About 100 witnesses will be called. ¶ The sixth Norwegian Industries Fair which was held at Oslo from September 5 to 12 was a remarkable success. The fair comprised 25 sections, which all showed that in spite of the commercial depression Norwegian industry is making steady progress. In most branches of manufacturing Norway is now able to compete with foreign countries. About

130,000 persons visited the fair, which is about 30,000 more than at the last fair.



## SWEDEN

¶ Queen Victoria, whose health for some time past has not been good, was last summer so ill that her physicians were seriously apprehensive. The King and Prince Wilhelm were constantly by her sick-bed, and there was even some thought of calling home the Crown Prince from his trip around the world. Fortunately, however, the Queen improved very much, and she has now been able to go abroad to Baden-Baden, as the Swedish winter is considered too severe for her. ¶ Svea Life Guard recently celebrated a unique anniversary. The regiment was last September four hundred years old, and the event was made the occasion of brilliant festivities. King Gustaf then for the first time spoke in the radio, as the entire program was broadcast, including the King's speech in presenting the Guard with a new banner. ¶ The regular air traffic has this last year developed very much. A new Junker plane, said to be the largest yet employed in a regular route, is put into the service between Malmö and Berlin. It has room for twenty-five passengers and a crew of three men besides the wireless telegrapher and the stewardess. The building of similar large planes in Sweden is under consideration. ¶ An interesting theatrical experiment is the staging of classic drama two or three times a week at the fine new Concert Hall without the use of scenery. The first play to be presented in this novel way was Shakespeare's *Anthony and Cleopatra* which was given almost without abridgement, under the instruction of Per Lindberg. As the decorations had to be dispensed with, all the more care was lavished on the costumes which were designed by the noted futurist artist, Isaac Grünewald. The play was very well received.

# THE AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

*For better intellectual relations between the American and Scandinavian peoples,  
by means of an exchange of students, publications, and a Bureau of Information—*

**Officers:** President, Henry G. Leach; Vice presidents, John G. Bergquist, John A. Gade and C. S. Peterson; Treasurer, H. Esk, Möller; Secretary, James Creese; Literary Secretary and Editor of the REVIEW, Hanna Astrup Larsen; Counsel, Henry E. Almberg; Auditors, David Elder & Co.

**Government Advisory Committees:** Danish—A. P. Weis, Chief of the Department of the Ministry of Education, Chairman; Norwegian—K. J. Hougen, Chief of the Department of Church and Education, Chairman. The Swedish Government is represented in the Swedish American Foundation (below).

**Co-operating Bodies:** Sweden—Sverige-Amerika Stiftelsen, Regeringsgatan 27-29, Stockholm, Svante Arrhenius, President; Ira Nelson Morris, Honorary President; J. P. Seeburg, Honorary Vice-President; Eva Fröberg, Secretary; Denmark—Danmarks Amerikanske Selskab, M. I. T. C. Clan, President; N. Feilberg, Secretary, Vestre Boulevard 18, Copenhagen; Norway—Norge-Amerika Fondet, Lille Strandgade 1, Oslo, K. J. Hougen, Chairman; Arne Kildal, Secretary.

## An Old Norse Trilogy

The Foundation has now published the twenty-seventh volume in the series of SCANDINAVIAN CLASSICS. Although separated by more than ten years from the *Prose Edda* which we published in 1916, and by three years from our translation of the *Poetic Edda*, the new CLASSIC *Norse Mythology* forms with these two an Old Norse Trilogy. The twelfth century Icelandic politician Snorri Sturluson may have been unscrupulous in public affairs, but in the *Prose Edda* he created one of the noblest records of his people's past, setting out briefly the legends of Balder and Odin and Thor which have entered into the literature of so many nations. It was 1923 that the Foundation placed beside Professor Brodeur's translation of the *Prose Edda* Dr. Bellow's translation of the *Poetic Edda*, opening to Americans for the first time a complete cycle of poems in which are recorded the Norseman's own songs of his heroes and his gods. For these two volumes there has been a constant demand and each has enjoyed a second printing.

It is to be expected that the third volume of our Old Norse trilogy will be as much in demand as either of the others, for in the *Norse Mythology* P. A. Munch made a correlation of the legends of the Northern world just as

those of Greek antiquity are collected and explained in Bullfinch's *Age of Fable*. Any one who has gone to an American library for a book on the Norse gods, or for a guide to Norse Mythology, or summaries of the many legends of Balder and Odin, Loki and Freyja, must be aware of the inadequacy of English treatment of this subject. There are a few works, chiefly out of print, or out of date, or too sentimental, or too casual. Munch's book has long been a standard work in Norway, and the Foundation expects that in Mr. Hustvedt's translation it will become a standard work in America.

## H. C. Andersen Becomes a Classic

To say that H. C. Andersen becomes a classic is an absurdity. Until now it has seemed equally absurd that in the series of SCANDINAVIAN CLASSICS published by the Foundation, Hans Christian Andersen, the most beloved of all Scandinavian authors, was not represented. The reason is simple: It is the duty of the Foundation to present those authors who might otherwise escape the eyes of America. Hans Christian Andersen is a perennial in American literature; so frequently are his tales published and re-published by American commercial houses that most of us have forgotten that these are only translations.

However, there is one volume by Hans

Christian Andersen which the American publisher has ignored and which it is now appropriate for the Foundation to publish. This becomes, in our series of *CLASSICS Hans Christian Andersen by Himself*. How this book happened to be written, how it later was elaborated and even padded by the author, and why now the Foundation returns to the first edition is explained in the Preface. We merely announce here that a book by Hans Christian Andersen, his own story of his own life, is added to the series of *SCANDINAVIAN CLASSICS* as the twenty-sixth volume. We expect that every reader of this note will later see the volume itself. The name of Hans Christian Andersen cannot be resisted.

#### An Illuminating Recorder

Professor Julius E. Olson of the University of Wisconsin spoke at the Leif Ericson Festival in Chicago on September 12. If we had before us the full text of his address we would be tempted to reproduce it in full, but to quote that part of his address which we have received is a special gratification: "In the work of promoting a spirit of co-operation among the Scandinavians in both Europe and America, the far-visioned generosity of the late Mr. Poulsen, a Danish Manufacturer of New York City, who made possible the American Scandinavian Foundation, which, through a splendidly conducted *AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW*, and the publication of a long and growing list of *SCANDINAVIAN CLASSICS*—impartially representing all of the Scandinavian countries—has done a work for the better relations among the Scandinavians of both America and Europe, for which all Scandinavians in the world should be everlastingly grateful. The Foundation is an illuminating recorder of Scandinavian prowess and achievement throughout the ages, and is worthy of the unstinted support of leading Scandinavians in this country of its inception. And to be a subscriber to the

*AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW* will, I dare say, in the course of time, come to be a badge of intellectual, cultural, and racial interest."

#### New Fellows

With the beginning of the academic year the new Fellows of the Foundation appear first in New York and then at the various institutions where they are to study. The first group of Fellows to arrive this year seem to be interested chiefly in matters of education and medical sciences. DR. EINAR GAUFFIN, Rektor of the Lundsberg School in Värmland, Sweden, an authority on matters of education, came to America early enough in the summer to visit boys' camps and to confer with the organizers of these camps. As the boys returned to school he also turns to the secondary schools, visiting the better known boys' schools and the universities between the eastern seaboard and the upper reaches of the Mississippi. . . . Miss NAEMI GRANFELT, also a Fellow from Sweden, Managing Director of the Allmänna Hjälpförening in Göteborg, spent the summer months studying the social settlements in American cities. Her studies included the social centres, health institutions, and charitable associations from New York to San Francisco. . . . Two Fellows of the Foundations are visiting the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, DR. THORALF ARNEBERG from Norway and DR. SVEN THURÉUS from Sweden. . . . Two other Fellows of the Foundation, A. G. DRACHMANN, Poulsen Fellow from Denmark, and THOR ANDERSEN from Norway, have been appointed to represent their respective countries at the fiftieth annual convention of the American Library Association at Atlantic City during the first week of October. At the conclusion of the Conference a circuit of ten or twelve libraries in as many cities was arranged for official representatives of foreign nations. . . . Sveriga Amerika Stiftelsen

named as a special Fellow, **GUSTAV EK**, Dean of the Swedish Institute for the Blind at Tomteboda, near Stockholm. Following a programme laid out for him by the New York Institute for the Blind, Mr. Ek is visiting institutions in various cities.

#### Fellows in Law and Politics

**VIGGO CARSTENSEN**, Fellow of the Foundation from Denmark, is the first Scandinavian student to come to America under the auspices of the Foundation for the study of our legal system. He is a graduate in law of the University of Copenhagen. His work in America will be done in the law school of Columbia University. . . . Also at Columbia University Dr. **HERBERT TINGSTEN** will study American political history. Mr. Tingsten is the author of a work on the referendum in America, and he is especially interested in American political tendencies of such liberal character.

#### Former Fellows

Two former Fellows of the Foundation acted principal roles at the University of California in a special course of lectures in the Department of Animal Husbandry. Dr. **Tage U. H. Ellinger**, Director of the Department of Live Stock Economics, a Fellow from Denmark several years ago, gave a series of lectures on the general subject of marketing of live stock products. Professor **E. C. Voorhies** spoke on rural life in Denmark and co-operative dairying. It is from Professor Voorhies also that we learn that the Library of the University of California has placed a Scandinavian unit in its budget for 1926-1927.

#### Chapter Club Nights

The Social Committee of the New York Chapter has announced the dates of six Club Nights of the winter season: October 26, November 30, January 25, March 29, April 26, and May 24. There will be a Club Night also in February but the date has not yet been chosen.

These Club Nights in rooms at the Hotel Plaza overlooking Central Park, have attracted increasing numbers of the Associates of the Foundation in the New York district, because the Social Committee has made of them dignified but most enjoyable occasions on which to welcome distinguished visitors from abroad or to introduce persons engaged in notable work among us. The guest of honor at the October meeting will be Dr. Knud Rasmussen, the celebrated explorer of Greenland and authority on Eskimo life.

#### A. L. A. Fiftieth Anniversary

The American Library Association was founded in Philadelphia in 1876, and met there for its fiftieth anniversary and in Atlantic City for its annual conference, October 3 to 9. In a registered attendance of about 2,500 were 58 delegates of 23 foreign nations. Sweden's official representatives were Dr. **Isak G. A. Collijn**, Librarian of the Royal Library at Stockholm and Mrs. Collijn. Norway was represented by a Fellow of the American Scandinavian Foundation, **Thor Magnus Andersen**, who delivered an address on library conditions in Norway. The delegate from Denmark was **A. G. Drachmann**, also a Fellow of the Foundation, who spoke on inter-library loan in Continental Europe. Miss **Anna C. Reque**, librarian of the Foundation, briefly described the Foundation's library service at one of the section meetings.

#### A Staff Note

Miss **Agnes Helena Nelson**, Assistant Treasurer of the Foundation and circulation manager for the REVIEW, has assumed domestic responsibilities in addition to her many duties in the staff of the Foundation. On September 26, she was married at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Brooklyn to Mr. **Walter Sigfrid Nelson**.

#### Poul Fjelde,

former Fellow of the Foundation, has an exhibition of bronzes and terra cotta at the Art Centre, New York.

# NORTHERN LIGHTS

## Norwegian-American Historical Association

The first volume of publications of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, *Studies and Records*, gives promise that valuable documents will be saved from oblivion by this recently organized society. The initial article in their first volume is a study of health conditions and the practice of medicine among the early settlers, by Professor Knut Gjerset and Dr. Ludwig Hektoen. Professor Henry J. Cadbury of Harvard writes of the Norwegian Quakers of 1825, to cite two of the outstanding papers included. These are followed by contemporary accounts of varied character in English translation.

The president of the Association, Rev. D. C. Ristad, outlines the Society's activities, and in conclusion the articles of incorporation, by-laws, and list of members (about six hundred have been enrolled) are given.

## Danish America at the Sesquicentennial

Danish American Day at the Sesquicentennial was celebrated on September 17, and thanks to the work of the Committee in charge it was made a memorable occasion. From New York a special train carried four hundred celebrants to Philadelphia, where they were joined by other contingents, so that about four thousand persons attended the festival entertainment given in the evening.

The official program for Danish day, of which Mr. Moldrup was Chairman, took place in the afternoon when visitors received an official welcome in the Court of Honor from Mayor Kendrick of Philadelphia. The Danish envoy, Minister Constantin Brun, responded in a speech in which he reviewed the part which Danes have had in building America, from the settlement of Jens Munk's Colony in Hudson Bay in 1619 to the agricultural experts of the present day,

who are acting as advisors in our government bureaus.

## The Norwegian Club of London

The Year Book of the Norwegian Club, 1926, the 29th year of issue, bears witness to the deep interest and scholarly research with which Anglo-Norwegian relations are fostered and maintained. Aside from yearly reports, there are historical and travel sketches, book reviews, and other items, embellished with a number of illustrations.

## Fellows of the Rockefeller Foundation

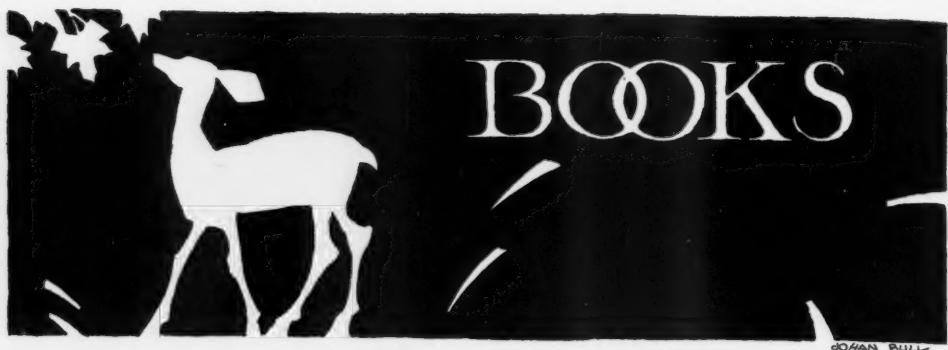
During the past year over eight hundred men and women have been added to the large international group of Fellows of the Rockefeller Foundation. They come from forty-four different countries, 408 Fellowships having been assigned to Europe, 241 to the Americas, and 193 to the Orient.

## International Historical Research

The American Historical Association, which is now engaged in raising a fund of one million dollars for historical research, has announced the formation of an International Historical Association and the election of Professor Halvdan Koht, the Norwegian historian, as chairman of this association. The Laura Spellman Rockefeller Foundation has made a grant of \$25,000. It is planned to hold an International Congress of Historians at Oslo in 1928 and a second Congress at Warsaw in 1933, with later congresses every five years.

## The Iceland Yearbook

Iceland is following the excellent precedent of the other Scandinavian countries, and we have just received the Iceland Yearbook, 1926. From this concise and convenient handbook of general information a very fair knowledge of present day Iceland may be obtained. The book is edited by Snæbjörn Jonsson and published by Helgi Zöega in Reykjavik.



## Recent Norwegian Books

By HANNA ASTRUP LARSEN

**A**MONG the new books in Norway none has been more eagerly awaited or has roused more interest than SIGRID UNDSET's new serial novel of which the first two volumes have appeared. Like *Kristin Lavransdatter* it has a medieval background; in fact Kristin's parents appear in the last chapter as young newly-married people. *Olav Audunsson i Hestviken* (Aschehoug) tells the life history of a man, especially in his marriage. It is more sombre than *Kristin Lavransdatter*, has less colorful, picturesque description, but gains power from its concentration on the moral development of the hero.

Olav Audunsson has been betrothed in childhood to his foster-sister, Ingunn. The two children have been allowed to run wild together, and Ingunn tempts her boy lover to forget the respect he owes her. After that, one wrong leads to another. Olav has taken for granted that Ingunn would be given to him as soon as they were old enough, but finds that her kinsmen are disposed to treat the betrothal of the children as a joke and hold Ingunn for a wealthier suitor. Olav is tied in the mesh of his own actions; he knows he must marry Ingunn, but can not reveal the reason. In his desperation he kills one of her kinsmen, for which he has to suffer the penalty of many years' banishment. When he re-

turns, he finds that Ingunn has been seduced by a strolling vagabond. He still regards her as in fact his wife and accepts her with the child she is to bear, but first he kills her seducer. This sin he never confesses, because he can not expose Ingunn, but the unconfessed sin eats into his soul like a poison, through all the years of their married life. The second volume ends with the death of Ingunn. Olav's sin is still unconfessed, the problem unsolved, for now there is the question of the children who must be shielded.

Sigrid Undset is emphatic in her repudiation of the individualism and the loosening of old standards which marked the literature of the preceding era. She believes in the integrity of the family and the responsibility of the individual to the race. That she believes in the lifelong, indissoluble marriage is a matter of course. In *Kristin Lavransdatter* she has described a marriage which is far from harmonious, but there the wife's devotion is at least sustained by the passionate, unwavering love of her husband, and Erlend, for all his weaknesses, has many qualities that make him not unworthy to mate with her. Kristin's love can be explained on perfectly natural, human grounds. In *Olav Audunsson* the author drives her thesis home by uniting her hero with a woman who fails

him at every turn, who not only has been unfaithful, but is futile and ineffectual, holding him with a feeble clutch that becomes a stranglehold. He never loses the sense that, no matter what she does or is, she is a part of himself, like a sick member of his own body. If she is weak, he must be all the stronger; if she is foolish, he must be the wiser. It is not merely that he sets his teeth in grim determination to do his duty. It is something far deeper. For the love itself endures, not because of any spell that her charms cast over him, but because she has once for all become flesh of his flesh, and however he may chafe, what is done can never be undone. Here Sidrid Undset takes marriage out of the world of ordinary human relations and invests it with a mystic quality which is really religious.

She is not alone among Norwegian authors in the reaction against individualism and the emphasis on the family and the race. We find the same tendency in several of the writers who choose their subjects from peasant life, among them PETER EGGE, whose last book, *Hansine Solstad* (Gyldendal) has been warmly praised by Sigrid Undset. The basic theme of the novel is family pride, strong enough to sustain a woman through a long life of hardship and unmerited disgrace. Hansine Solstad is from childhood determined to re-enter the peasant class out of which her mother stepped when she married an impious sergeant with no family in particular. The sense of her own worth—which is in fact a collective worth—gives her poise and dignity and a sense of responsibility. It makes her turn away from an admirer who is “not of her kind,” who to her seems “poor town trash” without the instinct for rising. Instead she promises to marry a middle-aged farmer, a distant relative, who can give her the opportunity she wants. He does not touch her heart, but rouses her honorable ambition. She

is busily planning how well and worthily she will fill the position as mistress of his house and how she will help her brothers and sisters—when the blow falls. An insidious rumor that she has been guilty of theft comes to her elderly lover’s attention; he is not man enough to face it, and when she offers to release him, he accepts with alacrity. In the end she marries a man who, like her first admirer, is only “poor town trash,” and she lives to bear a son whom she sees as “not of her kind.”

The story moves us as the fight of a gallant, undaunted spirit; we admire the indestructible stuff of which Hansine herself is fashioned, and yet we are tempted to take issue with the author. From Welhaven’s *Storebingen* and Björnson’s *Öjvind Pladsen*, the heroes of fiction and poetry have engaged our sympathies on the side of young love against elderly worldliness and cupidity; but here we are asked to sympathize with a fresh, beautiful young girl who deliberately chooses wealth and position without any love at all. And the representative of the supposed aristocracy fails her, while the finest gentleman in the book is her father, the unsuccessful and none too sober Sergeant Solstad.

There is in Peter Egge’s work a low-toned realism, a sober integrity which carries conviction, and it is possible that his interpretation of peasant life is more truthful than the romantic tales upon which we have been nourished. *Hansine Solstad* ranks easily among the first of the new books in Norway, and yet I think the novel by the same author which immediately preceded it is even more masterly, certainly more strikingly original. *Jægtvig and His God* is the story of a poor shoemaker who believes he is called upon to give the world a new religion, not through revelation, but through science. The contrast between his humble condition and his aspiring dreams is stuff for comedy, and Egge has treated it with rich, mellow humor,

but the comedy is never allowed to blunt the reader's sympathy. The prophet-shoemaker manages somehow to retain not only our pity but our respect, and in the collapse of his world he rises to a tragic level. It is the author's sincerity no less than his subtle art which prevents *Jægtvig* from becoming ridiculous. The *milieu* here as in *Hansine Solstad* is admirably well sustained and contributes to the sense of unity which is so characteristic of Egge's work.

The chronicles of a peasant family from about 1800 to the time of the World War is the subject of OLAU DUUN's novel series which has now been concluded with *The Storm* (Olaf Norli). The group includes *The Juvikings*, *Blind*, *The Great Wedding*, *Fairyland*, *Youth*, and *The Storm*. Duun uses not the synthetic *landsmaal* but his own dialect of Namdalen in northern Tröndelagen, and as he writes of Namdalen people

the form fits the contents to the finest fibre. Although the people from that part of the country are generally credited with more than their share of a rather heavy solidity, Duun's style has lightness and grace; his humor is sparkling, his character alive. Odin, the scion of the Juviking family whose fortunes we follow in the three last books of the group, is a really radiant figure. We meet him first in *Fairyland*, a child of seven, trudging up the mountain by his mother's hand to take his first job as a herdsboy. In *The Storm* he has become a leader in

the community, trying to infuse some of his enterprising spirit into his stolid neighbors, consciously using his power to sway men by a laugh or a joke. Odin's evil genius has been a man called Lauris who is supposedly his friend, but is in reality working against him. At last Lauris resorts to a slander, which makes Odin resolve to kill him and take the consequences. But when the two are

alone together, in the storm, clinging to the keel of a capsized boat which can carry only one, Odin voluntarily releases his hold and dies to save his enemy. The few brief paragraphs in which Duun tells the story —the struggle in Odin's mind, the last look at shore and sky, the unconscious self-revelation of the two men —move with an easy naturalness which throws into relief the tense tragedy of the events.

With the Juviking series Duun has become recognized, not only as the first

writer of *landsmaal* or dialect after Garborg, but as one of the writers of the first rank in Norway in this generation.

Egge and Duun, like Bojer, are natives of Tröndelagen, and their books are more or less rooted in their native soil. GABRIEL SCOTT finds his background in southern Norway, where the softness of the dialect seems to lend itself to that idyllic note which he, almost alone in Norway, is cultivating. Scott is generally classed with Hamsun among the romanticists who in the nineties broke away from realism, and his discursive



PETER EGGE

method and consciously naïve style are reminiscent of Hamsun. He can not be compared with Hamsun for power or scintillating brilliance, but his books have a tender, poetic beauty and a quiet humor all their own.

Recently Gabriel Scott has found his particular message in the exaltation of the poor and lowly who are the bearers of the eternal verities, goodness, truth, and self-sacrifice. *The Fountain*, published a few years ago, was in its field a classic. *The Path* (Gyldendal), his most recent book, preaches very much the same message though in a different form. Marcus, in the former book, is a poor lonely fisherman, in the lowliest possible circumstances, who finds the fountain of joy in his own soul. Kristopher, in the latter, is a crippled herds-boy to whom the mountain path becomes a way to peace and happiness.

The sufferings of Kristopher before he makes his escape are told with unnecessary circumstantiality. The charming part of the book is its description of the shepherd's life. So few of us who read books know anything about the primitive things that have formed the language of poetry and religion. A book such as *The Path* puts a keener edge on our appreciation of the age-old images. The little group of shepherds tend their flocks on the hills; they guard the timid, helpless, bleating creatures from harm; they camp under the stars at night, and we listen with them to all

the tiny peaceful sounds that come from their resting herds. Kristopher innocently believes that, as God came of old to shepherds tending their flocks, so the miracle may come to him, too. The landscape of heather-covered hills with bits of green pasturage between "lies there in voiceless contemplation. It seems still filled by the wonder of creation, when the shadow of the creator

passed over the earth, and grass grew in his footsteps. It is as though it had held fast to that impression and were still living in the memory, in unbroken relation with the miracle itself."

Gabriel Scott's last book, *Mussel Shells* (*Blaaskjæl*), is in a different vein. It is a collection of short stories, slight in composition, but of delightful flavor. The southlanders with their drawing speech, their long pompous words learned from the

"book language," and their love of ceremoniousness have their own peculiar humor, and it lives in the stories of Gabriel Scott.

It would be vain to look for subtle shades of character or motive in ANDREAS HAUKLUND's slashing tales from the Viking period. He deals with the simplest and most elemental feelings, hunger, sex, primitive hatred and primitive family love, the latter too heavily sentimental for the period he depicts. But his books have movement and coherence. *The Norns Are Spinning* received distinguished mention in the contest instituted



GABRIEL SCOTT

by Gyldental when the prize of 72,000 kroner was won by J. Anker Larsen's *The Philosopher's Stone*. It is a grim tale of a woman spurned who pursues her vengeance from one generation to another, with bloody combat, secret assassination, arson, and death-dealing runes. By contrast the author's latest book, *Helge the Young* (Gyldental) is almost idyllic. We follow the young hero only until he has completed his first trading expedition — evidently to London, though the name of the mart is not given — and turns the prow of his dragon ship toward the open sea. It is an ending that looks like a beginning, and it seems probable that Haukland has fallen a victim to the prevailing fashion of serial novels and that he will give us a continuation of Helge's story.

Haukland fills in with a wealth of detail that picture of daily life which is only sketched light-

ly in the sagas. He describes fishing and hunting expeditions, sowing and reaping, brewing and butchering, the gathering of seabirds' eggs and eider-down, and the skilled craftsmanship that went into the building of ships and houses. In spite of what his books lack in psychological truth and subtlety, they may be read with pleasure as pictures of primitive life.

Among recent books of criticism one of the most notable is JÖRGEN BUKDAHL's *Norwegian National Art* with the subtitle *Literary Essays* (Aschehoug). The

author expands at greater length his theory of the explosive power of repressed racial personality which he presented in his article "The Hidden Norway" in the last number of the REVIEW. To illustrate his theory he analyzes a group of Norwegian writers chosen not necessarily as the greatest, but as the most characteristic. Bukdahl believes that nationality is "the reality of the irrational in a people." The irreducible element, which defies analysis, is that which constitutes character, and it is on this element that literature must subsist. Reversing the slogan of Brandes, he declares categorically that "literature lives when it does not take up problems for debate."

Bukdahl is a young Danish critic living in Norway. He has generously tried to understand just that element in the Norwegian racial personality which is farthest



JÖRGEN BUKDAHL

removed from the Danish. It is not the first time Norwegian genius has been sympathetically appraised by a Danish critic, and Mr. Bukdahl shows the critical acumen and power of detachment which is characteristic of his people.

CHRISTIAN GIERLÖFF has written several books in which he tries to prod his countrymen to care for their natural resources. It is only an expansion of the same line of thought when in his latest book *The People Who Emigrate* (Aschehoug) he admonishes them to conserve their human material.

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# An American Book Table

*The Most Significant Books of the Year in America:  
a Guide for Scandinavian Readers*

Compiled by ANNA C. REQUE

## FICTION

**Show Boat**, by Edna Ferber. *Doubleday, Page.*

The romantic story of a floating theatre on the Mississippi.

**The Private Life of Helen of Troy**, by John Erskine. *Bobbs-Merrill.*

A brilliantly satirical account of what Helen of Troy may have thought and said when she returned to Menelaus.

**An American Tragedy**, by Theodore Dreiser. *Boni & Liveright.*

A sombre chronicle of a youth marked for crime and disaster from boyhood.

**Porgy**, by DuBose Heyward. *Doran.*

Negro life in a Charleston tenement portrayed with unusual sympathy and fidelity.

**The Romantic Comedians**, by Ellen Glasgow. *Doubleday, Page.*

Sentimental adventures of a southern judge on his second honeymoon.

**Chimes**, by Robert Herrick. *Macmillan.*

The industrialized university and the mechanization of scholarship as it appears from a professor's viewpoint. The scene is a mid-western university called Eureka.

**Pig Iron**, by Charles G. Norris. *Dutton.*

From a humble farm in Massachusetts to wealth and success in New York, and the futility thereof.

**Teetallow**, by T. S. Stribling. *Doubleday, Page.*

A story of poor whites in the Tennessee mountains.

**Mantrap**, by Sinclair Lewis. *Harcourt, Brace.*

From the Canadian Northwest and the great outdoors.

**Clara Barron**, by Harvey O'Higgins. *Harper.*

The heroine is a woman who achieves success, overcoming heavy handicaps, but her personal life atrophies.

**O Genteel Lady**, by Esther Forbes. *Houghton, Mifflin.*

Lancine Bardeen, a lady of Boston in the 1850's.

**Thunder on the Left**, by Christopher Morley. *Doubleday, Page.*

A whimsical story that moves half in reality, half in the shadowland of the future.

**After Noon**, by Susan Ertz. *Appleton.*

The love affairs of a man of forty, complicated by the presence of two grown daughters.

## POETRY AND DRAMA

**East Wind**, by Amy Lowell. *Houghton, Mifflin.*

A second collection of posthumous poems.

**Craig's Wife**, by George E. Kelly. *Little, Brown.*

A good character study of a wife to whom her home was more than her husband. A Pulitzer Prize play, 1926.

**The Great God Brown; The Fountain; The Moon of the Caribees; and Six Other Plays of the Sea**, by Eugene O'Neill. *Boni & Liveright.*

Nine plays, the first of which had a successful run in New York.

**Going-to-the-Stars**, by Vachel Lindsay. *Appleton.*

Poems and drawings in delicate and fanciful, if somewhat erratic, lines.

**The Selected Poems of Lizette Woodworth Reese**. *Doran.*

A book of lyrics.

**Fiddler's Farewell**, by Leonora Speyer. *Knopf.*

The author's second collection of verse.

## GENERAL LITERATURE

**Essays on Nationalism**, by Carlton J. H. Hayes. *Macmillan.*

A study of the development of nationalism, which the author claims has become the real religion of modern peoples, in part superseding other religions. By a professor of history at Columbia.

**Critical Woodcuts**, by Stuart P. Sherman. *Scribner.*

Essays on literary personages, including Sherwood Anderson, Willa Cather, Floyd Dell, D. H. Lawrence, and others, by the late literary editor of the *Herald-Tribune*.

**Adventures in Understanding**, by David Grayson. *Doubleday, Page.*

These new "adventures" have an urban instead of the familiar rural setting, but the author's cheerful philosophic background remains the same.

**The Romany Stain**, by Christopher Morley. *Doubleday, Page.*

Cheerful essays on books and adventures at home and abroad from "The Bowling Green" of the *Saturday Review*.

**The Meadows; Familiar Studies of the Commonplace**, by John C. Van Dyke. *Scribner.*

The Raritan Valley through the year, described in a book that is slight, but of literary charm and pleasing appearance.

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New York during the late sixties and seventies.

When America Was Young, by John Thompson Faris. *Harper.*

A colorful account of many phases of early American life.

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The log of six months voyaging to the Sargasso Sea and the Galapagos.

The Drifting Cowboy, by Will James. *Scribner.*

Seven stories, largely autobiographical, depicting cowboy life, and illustrated with lively drawings by the author.

Travels of Marco Polo. *Boni & Liveright.*

Revised from Marsden's Translation and Edited with an introduction by Manuel Komroff.

An attractive edition of the narrative of the greatest traveler of medieval times.

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Abraham Lincoln; The Prairie Years. by Carl Sandburg. *Harcourt, Brace.*

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The Intimate Papers of Colonel House. *Houghton, Mifflin.*

Arranged as a Narrative by Charles Seymour.

The "man of mystery" describes his association with Wilson from 1912 to 1917.

The Political Education of Woodrow Wilson, by James Kerney. *Century.*

A political associate's biography of the New Jersey Governor who became President.

Life and Letters of Thomas Jefferson, by Francis W. Hirst. *Macmillan.*

An Englishman writes an appreciative and illuminating life of the author of the Declaration of Independence.

The Life and Letters of John Burroughs, by Clara Barrus. *Houghton, Mifflin.*

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The story of how America won leadership in finance, by the financial editor of the *New York Times.*

Dependent America; a Study of the Economic Basis of our International Relations, by William C. Redfield. *Houghton, Mifflin.*

Wide research has gone into this study of our dependence on other nations for imports, by the former Secretary of Commerce.

Our Times; the United States, 1900-1925, I. The Turn of the Century, 1900-1904, by Mark Sullivan. *Scribner.*

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A lucid account for the general reader of philosophers ancient and modern.

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**John S. Sargent, His Life and Work**, by William Howe Downes. *Little, Brown*.

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**American Country Houses of To-day**, with a Preface by Alfred Hopkins. *Architectural Book Publishing Co.*

Attractive collection of pictures of the country house and its setting. Building plans are also included.

**The Book of Negro Spirituals**. *The Viking Press*. Edited by James Weldon Johnson.

The musical settings for this popular selection of folk songs are by J. Rosamond Johnson.

**Mellows, a Chronicle of Unknown Singers**, by Robert Emmet Kennedy. *A. & C. Boni*.

A collection of negro spirituals and folk songs interspersed with explanations. "Mellows" is the Louisiana negro's word for melodies.

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### A Scandinavian List

*Publications in English Translated from the Scandinavian or Dealing with Scandinavian Subjects.*

#### HISTORY AND POLITICS

**Imperial Rome**, by Martin P. Nilsson. *Harcourt, Brace*.

A study in retrogression which compares Roman civilization to modern Europe and America. The author is professor of classical archaeology and ancient history at the University of Lund.

**Fundamental Thoughts in Economics**, by Gustav Cassel. *Harcourt, Brace*.

A series of lectures given at the University of London, summarizing the theories of this eminent Swedish economist.

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### POEMS AND SONGS

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Björnson was the national Skald of Norway, and the idol of his people. Love of country, pride in its history and promise of its future, and joy in the beauty and grandeur of its scenery, these were the inspiration in his many songs and ballads. His poems arouse the feeling of youthful longing and joy which have inspired composers of music to pour out their strains. When a Scandinavian reads Björnson's poems his ears ring with the familiar melodies into which they have almost sung themselves.

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### THE FAMILY AT GILJE

By Jonas Lie

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*The Oil War*, by Anton Mohr. *Harcourt, Brace*.

The struggle among nations to obtain control of the oil industry. The author is lecturer in Political Geography at the University of Oslo.

*Norway*, by Gathorne Hardy. *Scribner*. Reviewed in our July Number.

*Sweden and the American Revolution*, by Adolph B. Benson. *N. G. Sahlin, New Haven*.

A roll-call of Swedish officers with Washington's forces; Chapters on Sweden's attitude toward the new Republic; and longer biographical essays on John Morton, Col. von Ferson, Creutz, etc. To be reviewed later.

#### TRAVEL

*Our Polar Flight*, by Roald Amundsen and Lincoln Ellsworth. *Dodd, Mead*.

The late successful flight over the pole has only added interest to the account of the 1925 airplane expedition with its almost inconceivable hardships and equally amazing fortitude.

*Two Vagabonds in Sweden and Lapland*, by Jan Gordon and Cora J. Gordon. *Dodd, Mead*.

The two vagabonds are a Scotchman and his wife whose visit to Sweden is not according to the usual tourist formula, but a look at life in taverns of the humbler sort and among peasants on farms remote from the beaten trail. A joyous freshness pervades the record of their wanderings as set down in word and picture. The numerous illustrations include several in color. In a second edition the misprints ought to be corrected.

*The Saga of a Supercargo*, by Fullerton Waldo. *Macrae-Smith*.

A voyage from Philadelphia to Greenland and description of life in the Danish Colony and Eskimo village at Ivigut.

*Northern Lights and Southern Shade*, by Douglas Goldring. *Houghton-Mifflin*.

The first part of this volume is devoted to an entertaining and personal account of the author's impressions of Sweden, more particularly Göteborg, where he gave a series of lectures on English literature at the University College of Commerce.

*My Life as an Explorer*, by Sven Hedin *Boni and Liveright*.

Reviewed in our August number.

#### MEDICINE

*Sex Hygiene*, by Dr. Julia Kinberg-von Sneider and Dr. Alma Sundquist. *Holt*. A clear discussion of vital topics.

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**Phonetics**, by Otto Jespersen. *Holt.*

On the general development of articulated sounds by a professor at the University of Copenhagen.

## LITERATURE

**The Nobel Prize Winners in Literature**, by Anne Russell Marble. *Appleton.*

Reviewed in our March number.

## POETRY

**Guitar and Concertina; a Century of Poems** by Gustav Fröding. *London, Allen.*

Translated in the original metres by C. D. Locock.

A collection of Fröding's most popular poems including besides *Guitar and Concertina*, *Splashes and Rags*, and others. Fröding has been introduced to Americans by Charles Wharton Stork. The present volume shows that he is also being discovered in England.

**Frithiof's Saga**, by E. Tegnér. *London, Allen.*

Translated in the original metres by C. D. Locock.

A new English translation of Tegnér's epic cycle, on the centenary of its first publication, 1925, demonstrates that this classic has not yet lost its immense popularity.

**The Oxford Book of Scandinavian Verse** XVII Century-XX Century. *Oxford Press.*

Chosen by Sir Edmund Gosse and W. A. Craigie.

Reviewed in our July number.

**Songs of Ensign Stål**, from the Swedish of Johan Ludwig Runeberg. *Stechert.*

Translated by Clement Burbank Shaw.

## FICTION

**Rosa**, by Knut Hamsun. *Knopf.*

The continuation of *Benoni*, an account of how the bold swain wins Rosa, the parson's daughter, and how they enter on their happy ever afterwards.

**Martha and Mary**, by J. Anker Larsen. *Knopf.*

The spiritual development of two sisters, told with a charming rural Danish background, and the same intuitive knowledge of the child's soul which characterized *The Philosopher's Stone*.

**Cat and Candle**, by Palle Rosenkrants. *Doubleday, Page.*

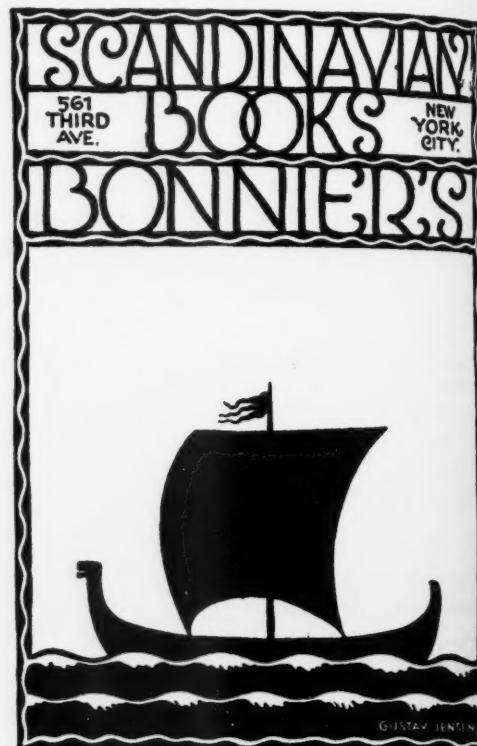
An amusing novel in a sophisticated vein.

**Styrbiorn the Strong**, by E. R. Eddison. *A. & C. Boni.*

A stirring tale of the tenth century with the scene laid in Upsala at the time of Eric the Victorious and Sigrid the Haughty.

**Leif the Lucky**, by Clara Sharpe Hough. *Century.*

America's first discoverer treated in fictional guise. A rather amateurish attempt to simulate the saga form. Historically inaccurate.



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